

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-02 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NASA-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 /032 W
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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1286
INFO CSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 2177

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY OCLR DA GL
SUBJ: BALLOON FLIGHTS FROM GREENLAND

REF: STATE 175472

SUMMARY: DANISH AUTHORITIES IN MFA AND MINISTRY FOR GREENLAND ARE UNABLE TO GRANT CLEARANCE FOR BALLOON FLIGHTS REQUESTED REFTEL ON BASIS OF THE INFORMATION THUS FAR PROVIDED. THEY ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE FACT THAT ADVANCE NOTICE FOR FILING A NOTAM - SIX WEEKS NORMALLY, FOUR WEEKS MINIMUM - WAS NOT OBSERVED IN MAKING THE REQUEST. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AND NECESSARY WAIVERS CAN STILL BE ARRANGED, BUT POSTPONEMENT OF THE PROJECT UNTIL NEXT YEAR WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO SOME DANISH AUTHORITIES INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

1) IN FOLLOWING UP ITS REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE (SUBMITTED BY NOTE ON JULY 17 TO MFA), THE EMBASSY LEARNED THAT DANISH AUTHORITIES WERE HAVING DIFFICULTY APPROVING BALLOON FLIGHTS FOR TWO REASONS (A) INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION AND (B) LACK OF ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED BY REGULATIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF CLASS II NOTAM BY DANISH DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION.

2) DANISH AUTHORITIES ARE WILLING TO WAIVE NOTAM ADVANCE
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NOTICE, HOWEVER, AND WILL ISSUE NOTAM'S BY TELEX

TO NECESSARY RECIPIENTS, BUT THEY NEED FOLLOWING
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY IN ORDER FOR FINAL DANISH
APPROVAL TO BE GRANTED.

(A) SIZE OF THE BALLOONS AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC PAYLOAD
PACKAGE;

(B) NATURE OF THE LIFTING GAS;

(C) EXPECTED FLIGHT CHARACTERISTICS (HOW LONG TO REACH
FLOAT ALTITUDE?).

(D) EXACT DESCRIPTION OF CUT-DOWN SYSTEM. TYPE AND
NATURE OF CUT-DOWN EQUIPMENT (DANISH REGULATIONS
APPARENTLY REQUIRE INDEPENDENT, BACK-UP SYSTEM);

(E) DESCRIPTION OF RADAR REFLECTORS AND OTHER SAFETY
EQUIPMENT;

(F) RADION FREQUENCIES TO BE EMPLOYED;

(G) INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHANNEL BY WHICH NOTAM
NOTICES WILL BE FILED WITH DANISH AUTHORITIES.

3) EMBOFF CONFERRED WITH DR. JORGEN TAAGHOLT, SCIENTIFIC
LIAISON OFFICER FOR MINISTRY OF GREENLAND, WHO CONFIRMED
THAT THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS IN MFA AND MINISTRY FOR
GREENLAND WERE IN A QUANDARY OVER THE LATE RECEIPT OF
THE NSF REQUEST. (TAAGHOLT HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH
THEM AFTER TELECON FROM AIR FORCE CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH
LABORATORY.) TAAGHOLT EXPLAINED THAT HIS ASSISTANT,
PSTAUNING, WHO HAS BEEN DANISH COLLABORATOR ON THIS
PROJECT, HAD TWICE WARNED PROJECT SCIENTISTS THAT RE-
QUEST FOR APPROVAL HAD TO BE SUBMITTED SEVERAL WEEKS IN
ADVANCE. WHEN NO FURTHER WORD HAD BEEN RECEIVED, STAUNING
HAD MADE OTHER LANS TO ACCOMPANY AN EXPEDITION TO
NORTHEAST GREENLAND AND HE WILL NOT, THEREFORE, BE
AVAILABLE FOR THIS PROJECT. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S
QUERY, TAAGHOLT ADMITTED THAT THE FOURTEEN SCIENTIFIC
GROUND STATIONS IN GREENLAND UNDER HIS LABORATORY'S CONTROL
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COULD BE USED IN PROVIDING THE DATA REQUIRED WITHOUT
STAUNING'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT
TAAGHOLDT WOULD PREFER A POSTPONEMENT OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT
UNTIL NEXT SUMMER.

4) ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MINISTRY FOR GREENLAND OFFICIAL
INVOLVED EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER THE PROJECT
AGAIN ON PRIORITY BASIS AS SOON AS THE ADDITIONAL INFORMA-

TION WAS RECEIVED. ASSUMING THAT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ARE
MET, HE IMPLIED THAT GREEN LIGHT WOULD BE GIVEN.
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